

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): Connecting device for connecting discharge devices (2) to packages (3) with liquid products (4), preferably foodstuff products, for discharging said products (4) from the packages (3),

wherein the packages (3) have walls (8) of synthetic material,

wherein the connecting device (1) includes two connecting members (9, 10) which can be connected to each other, namely a first connecting member (9) which is located on a wall (8) of the package (3) and a second connecting member (10) which can be connected to said first connecting member (9) for connecting the discharge device (2) to the package (3),

wherein the first connecting member (9) has a hole (11) or a notch for a hole (11), said hole (11) being closed by means of a closing member (13),

wherein the second connecting member (10) has a tubular member (14) by means of which the closing member (13) can be penetrated for opening the first connecting member (9),

wherein the tubular member (14) can be inserted into the hole (11) and pressed onto edge portions (16) of the hole (11) such that the tubular member (14) adheres to said edge portions (16) and the connecting members (9, 10) adhere close to each other,

wherein the hole (11) in the first connecting member (9) has four, five or six corners (15) and edge portions (16) which extend between said corners (15), and

wherein the tubular member (14) of the second connecting member (10) has a corresponding number of corners (17) and edge portions (18) extending therebetween,

c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n

that the edge portions (16 and 18 respectively) of the hole (11) and the tubular member (14) respectively, are concave and arcuate relative to the centre (C1 and C2 respectively) of said hole (11) and said tubular member (14) respectively, and

that the concave and arcuate edge portions (16 and 18 respectively) of the hole (11) and the tubular member (14) respectively, connect to each other for defining the corners (15 and 17 respectively) of said hole (11) and said tubular member (14) respectively.

Claim 2 (Original): Connecting device according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the edge portions (16 and 18 respectively) of the hole (11) and the tubular member (14) respectively, are uniform.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Connecting device according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~
claim 1, characterized in that the first connecting member (9) is provided on
the package (3) such that the edge portions (16) of its hole (11) has a certain
orientation relative to the package (3).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Connecting device according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, characterized in that the first connecting
member (9) is provided inside the package (3) and located on the inner side of an
unbroken part of a wall portion (8a) of the package (3) such that said unbroken part
defines the closing member (13) closing the hole (11) in the first connecting
member (9).

Claim 5 (Original): Connecting device according to claim 4,
characterized in that the first connecting member (9) has a spacer (19)
which is provided inside the package (3) such that it during emptying of said
package (3) keeps wall portions (8b) thereof at a distance from the hole (11).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Connecting device according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~, claim 1 characterized in that the first and the second
connecting member (9, 10) respectively, consists of elastic material.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Connecting device according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, characterized in that the first and second
connecting member (9, 10) consist of synthetic material.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Connecting device according to ~~any~~
~~preceding claim~~ claim 1, characterized in that the package (3) consists of
flexible material and is designed as a plastic bag.